

VICTOR SHERMAN (SBN 38483)
LAW OFFICES OF VICTOR SHERMAN
11400 West Olympic Boulevard, Suite 1500
Los Angeles, California 90064
Telephone (424) 371-5930
Facsimile (310) 392-9029
Email: victor@victorsherman.law

Attorney for Defendant
SERHAT DANIEL GUMRUKCU

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

SERHAT DANIEL GUMRUKCU,

Defendant.

CA Case No. 22-MJ-02075
VT Case No. 22-CR-581

**Motion to Be Released on Bond
Pending Trial; Memorandum of
Points and Authorities in
Support Thereof; Exhibits**

Defendant Serhat Daniel Gumrukcu opposes a detention order that would have him held without bail. As will be shown, he is an asset, not a danger to the community, and there is no reason to believe he will flee. His life, assets and career are all located in the Central District of California. With assets of over \$6 million to contribute to his bond, Dr. Gumrukcu urges that the court set and release him on bail.

Dated: June 1, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Victor Sherman
VICTOR SHERMAN
Attorney for Defendant
SERHAT DANIEL GUMRUKCU

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

A *Defendant's Background and Character*

Dr. Serhat Daniel Gumrukcu immigrated to the United States around 2013. Not long after arriving here, Dr. Gumrukcu married William Anderson Wittekind in 2013. He became a permanent resident in 2014.

Dr. Gumrukcu came here as a Turkish national, having completed his medical training at Dokuz Eylul University in 2004 in Izmir, Turkey. He went on to receive his medical degree (M.D.) abroad.

For the first couple of years he was in the United States, Dr. Gumrukcu traveled frequently to African and European countries to consult with other physicians about their mutual patients, as well as for humanitarian purposes. He stopped traveling internationally in 2015 to focus on his research, one offshoot of which was Enochian Biosciences, which was formed in 2016. The company followed on the heels of the type of research that Dr. Gumrukcu was conducting into HIV, cancer, and infectious diseases.

Dr. Gumrukcu also consults at Seraph Medical PC, a practice owned by Dr. Phillip Musikanth MD, where he and Dr. Musikanth collaborate to improve the lives of patients with serious and life-threatening diseases.

While doctors at Seraph Medical see and treat patients, Dr. Gumrukcu's role is solely to serve as a consultant to patients' physicians. Dr. Gumrukcu has no patients of his own and defers all patient-care decisions to the treating physician.

1 Among the letters written on Dr. Gumrukcu's behalf is one from Mark Dybul,
2 MD, a professor at the Georgetown University Medical Center. Serving as the US
3 Global AIDS Coordinator with the rank of Ambassador and the level of an Assistant
4 Secretary of State, Dr. Dybul became a principal architect of the US President's
5 Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the largest international health
6 initiative in history for a single disease. While in that role, Dr. Dybul continued to be
7 a member of the Uniformed Public Health services, in which he served for 14 years,
8 and attained the rank of Upper Rear Admiral and Assistant Surgeon General. From
9 January 2014 to August 2017, Dr. Dybul served as the Executive Director of the
10 Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the largest multilateral global
11 health agency in the world. It supports approximately 100 low- and middle-income
12 countries in their efforts to deal with diseases that kill approximately 3.5 million
13 people each year.

14
15 Dr. Dybul writes that he has been wholly impressed by the kind of research
16 that Dr. Gumrukcu is conducting, so much so that he is currently the CEO of
17 Enochian Biosciences, the company that Dr. Gumrukcu formed to further develop
18 his research. Dr. Dybul states:

19 [Dr. Gumrukcu] has a remarkable level of compassion for any person I
20 have known, let alone as a scientific genius. He is rare among the
21 scientists, business people and political leaders I know in that all of his
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 scientific ideas are directly derived from his interaction with people
2 suffering from some of the deadliest and most devastating diseases in
3 the world. He has a heart that is as open to human suffering as his mind
4 is open to new ideas. He also has a deep sense of loyalty and duty to
5 serve others and a seemingly inexhaustible generosity of spirit. Perhaps
6 for these reasons, also rare among the top 1 percent I know, he is
7 beloved by everyone who works with and for him.

10 As a scientist, he is a true genius. He has the remarkable and rare ability
11 to see across disciplines and to connect dots that others cannot see. As
12 with the greatest advances in the history of science, once Dr. Serhat
13 explains his latest insights, the reaction often is “how did we not think
14 of that 20 years ago.” They are elegant beyond description. Dr. Serhat’s
15 unique and spectacular ideas and insights have the potential to cure HIV
16 and induce life-long remissions from some of the most common and
17 deadliest cancers. In addition, he has a novel approach to an HIV
18 vaccine that is the holy grail in HIV research.

22 Exhibit A.¹

25
26 ¹ Because time was limited to compile the letters for this motion, some of the
27 letters, like that of Dr. Dybul, were written for purpose of supporting Dr.
28 Gumrukcu’s naturalization application. These have been identified in the index
to Exhibit A.

1 Among the people invested in the work that Dr. Gumrukcu is doing is René
2 Sindlev, who among other enterprises was a cofounder of Pandora Jewelry. After
3 seeing the kind of work that Dr. Gumrukcu was doing, Mr. Sindlev proposed that
4 they form a company together to develop the cutting-edge treatments and medical
5 developments that Dr. Gumrukcu was working on. Sindlev's proposal became
6 Enochian Biosciences. Mr. Sindlev explains that Dr. Gumrukcu had not previously
7 considered how much more effective he could be with a group of scientists
8 committed to the same goals.
9

10
11 Dr.Serhat is not a business person, but for him it was more important
12 that his ideas, cures and ground breaking treatments would be accessible
13 and available to thousands or even maybe millions of people around the
14 world in desperate needs of real cures or life long remissions for
15 Cancers, HIV, chronic hepatitis B, Covid-19, pan flu and other of
16 today's incurable and deadly deceases and viruses.
17

18
19
20 Exhibit A.

21 Mr. Sindlev believes deeply in Dr. Gumrukcu's genius and compassion. He
22 cannot conceive that Dr. Gumrukcu could do harm or be involved in taking a life.
23

24 I have seen half dead people walking into his medical clinic and
25 literately walk out alive after being treated by his California licensed
26 medical doctors & staff.
27
28

1 Dr.Serhat has the ability to find cures for almost all deadly and
2 incurable deceases. He gives life. He could never take a life directly or
3 indirectly. It's just not his nature.
4

5 Exhibit A.

6 Another person intimately aware of Dr. Gumrukcu's work is W. David Hardy,
7
8 MD, who has served as a scientific and medical consultant to Enochian Biosciences
9 for the last two years in addition to working as an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins
10 University. He is also Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Cedars-
11 Sinai Medical Center. Dr. Hardy states that he has interacted daily with Dr.
12 Gumrukcu working on pre-clinical research studies to develop a gene therapy and
13 stem cell-based cure for HIV infection, other viral diseases, and cancer. Dr. Hardy
14 remarks:
15
16

17 I consider it to be a highlight of my 35-year career to be working with a
18 physician scientist as creative, ingenious, and productive as Dr.

19
20 Gümürkcü. His ability to think "out-of-the-box" scientifically will, in
21 my opinion, produce major advances in our ability to cure HIV/AIDS,
22 chronic viral infections and cancers and lay the foundations for many
23 other medical advances.
24

25 Exhibit A.
26
27
28

1 Another member of the Board at Enochian is Carol L. Brosgart, MD, who is a
2 Clinical Professor of Medicine, Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of
3 California, San Francisco. Dr. Brosgart writes:
4

5 I have spent the past forty-three years of my medical and scientific
6 career in the public health arena focused on improving clinical care and
7 scientific research in the areas of infectious diseases (HIV, HBV, HCV,
8 influenza, COVID-19, etc.) and in developing therapies and vaccines for
9 these diseases. During this period, I have had the pleasure of working
10 with the relevant and noteworthy scientists in the area, both
11 domestically and globally. Dr. Gümrükcü is a true leader in the field.
12 We have come so far since the recognition of these viral disease. And,
13 we now have vaccines for HBV and influenza. We need vaccines for the
14 other diseases (HBV, HCV, influenza, COVID-19). For HIV and HBV,
15 we have therapies, but they must be taken for life. Amazingly, we can
16 now cure HCV with 8-12 weeks of oral therapy. And, curative therapies
17 for cancer are also needed.
18
19
20
21

22 Exhibit A.
23

24 Tung Nguyen had been a researcher for 15 years, studying cancer and
25 infectious diseases at such institutes as UCLA, John Wayne Cancer Institute, and
26
27
28

1 Beckman Research Institute at City of Hope (COH) Medical Center. Nguyen states
2 that it was eye-opening to work with Dr. Gumrukcu:
3

4 After all those previous years, it was quite an amazing experience sitting
5 through the job interview listening to his innovative ideas on scientific
6 approaches on how to cure diseases, and it was the start of a 4 year-long
7 scientifically productive and professional relationship. Dr. Serhat is
8 really a brilliant mind, constantly coming up with great ideas that have
9 the potential and impactful applications to contribute to curing diseases.
10
11

12 Exhibit A.

13 Dr. Gumrukcu has been deeply involved with HIV research for many years
14 and applied for his first patent in the United States in 2017 for a procedure to
15 reconstitute bone marrow. This was followed by another patent in 2018 for using
16 dendritic cells for cancer therapy. Over the ensuing years, Dr. Gumrukcu applied for
17 three more patents for such things as an allogeneic T-cell-based HIV vaccine,
18 treatments for cancer and infectious diseases, and a possible cure for hepatitis-B.
19
20

21 Exhibit B.²

22 Dr. Gumrukcu has also made generous charitable donations over the years,
23 totaling over \$600,000. These contributions have included giving over \$110,000 to
24 the Elton John AIDS Foundation. He also gave over \$30,000 to Project Angel Food,
25
26
27
28

1 as well as giving \$9,500 to the Alliance for Housing and Healing. Other
2 contributions have included \$5,000 to the Los Angeles LGBT Center, \$30,000 to
3 Kiss the Ground a non-profit dedicated to reversing climate change, \$10,000 to the
4 AIDS Foundation, \$5000 to the Network for Good and \$350,000 to fund Dr.
5 Gumrukcu's non-profit research institute. Exhibit B.
6

7
8 Dr. Gumrukcu's non-profit is the Seraph Research Institute ("SRI"), from
9 which Dr. Gumrukcu receives no income. SRI is located at 4142 Lankershim Blvd.
10 in Toluca Lake. Much of its work is focused on developing cures for cancer, HIV,
11 HBV, COVID, and influenza. Exhibit B.
12

13 Dr. Gumrukcu also consults at Seraph Medical PC, a practice owned by Dr.
14 Phillip Musikanth MD, where Dr. Musikanth and his team collaborate with Dr.
15 Gumrukcu to improve the lives of patients with serious and life-threatening diseases.
16

17 In 2020, he was busy publishing and attending conferences in the United
18 States regarding his research, which had broadened to include COVID and SARS, as
19 well as hepatitis-B and influenza. Dr. Gumrukcu continued publishing and attending
20 conferences in 2021. It was at the beginning of 2021 that Dr. Gumrukcu and his
21 husband, William Anderson Wittekind, purchased their current home on Curson
22 Avenue in Los Angeles, California. Towards the end of 2021, Dr. Gumrukcu and his
23
24

25
26 (cont'd from previous page)

27 ² Exhibit B is a timeline documenting his activities and achievements over the last
28 several years.

1 husband acquired the 60,000 square-foot property on Lankershim where they are
2 realizing Dr. Gumrukcu's dream of having a life sciences campus with a mission to
3 find cures and put an end to people's suffering from HIV, Covid, Cancer and rare
4 diseases. 2021 also saw Dr. Gumrukcu receive a lot of attention in the press from
5 such publications as Yahoo Life, CBSN News, the New York Times, Associated
6 Press and Yahoo Finance. Exhibit B.
7

9 In March of this year, Enochian Biosciences entered into a partnership with
10 Caring Cross to use Dr. Gumrukcu's patented platform technology to improve the
11 effectiveness of a potential cure for HIV with an anti-HIV CAR-T therapy that
12 Caring Cross is studying in a clinical trial. They are hoping to soon begin
13 experiments to use this technology to treat HIV and other illnesses. More articles
14 citing or featuring Dr. Gumrukcu appeared 2022, including in MSN News, Men's
15 Health, and Yahoo Finance. Exhibit B.
16

18 Many other letters that have been received attest to Dr. Gumrukcu's character
19 and the generosity, compassion, and humanitarian benevolence he has consistently
20 demonstrated. Jordan Bringert, for example, is a television writer who first met Dr.
21 Gumrukcu in 2013. He writes:
22

24 In my time knowing Serhat I have found him to be engaging,
25 educational, patient, kind, generous, and someone who truly cares about
26 people. Serhat once even remarked to me, while explaining how his
27

1 therapy works, that if it were up to him, drugs to eradicate disease
2 should be free for those who needed them. But the nature of the medical
3 and pharmaceutical industry were such that for someone to make a
4 difference, they would have to work within the confines of that industry.
5
6 A concept I am all too familiar with.

7
8 Exhibit A.

9 Alexia Zumbrum is Dr. Gumrukcu's husband's sister and Dr. Gumrukcu's
10 sister-in-law. She remarks:

11
12 Serhat surrounds himself with good natured, intelligent, peaceful., and
13 benevolent individuals. Serhat and those he takes up company with have
14 a mission to make positive change in their community and on a greater
15 global scale. Serhat has worked extensively to make a difference in
16 humanity through his efforts to find treatments and cures for illness,
17 diseases, life threatening conditions and more. Many of his travels over
18 the years have been organized around bringing treatment to patients all
19 over the world. When we visit and catch up he is always most excited to
20 share about his healing work.

21
22
23
24 Exhibit A.

25 Those on Dr. Gumrukcu's security team are with him throughout the day.
26 They state that they have never seen Dr. Gumrukcu lose his temper or composure.
27
28

1 Juan Barba has been the head of Dr. Gumrukcu's security team for four years. He
2 states:

3
4 I have always known Dr. Gumrukcu to be a kindhearted individual
5 who gives selflessly of himself to help others in need. I have never seen
6 him lose his temper or act aggressively toward anyone even when I
7 believed he was dealing with situations that were not pleasant. Dr.
8 Gumrukcu has always treated me and all the members of the security
9 team with respect and kindness, even though we were there to ensure
10 his needs were taken care of, he would always make sure our needs
11 were taken care of as well.
12
13

14 Exhibit A.

15
16 Brady Pesola also served on Dr. Gumrukcu's security detail from late 2018
17 until late 2020. He writes:

18 During that time I witnessed nothing but love, compassion and kindness
19 for everyone around him. He was loved by everyone around him and
20 always looked after the people he served, and those that served him are
21 loyal because of his kindness and upstanding character.
22
23

24 Exhibit A.

25 Michael Schlesinger is an attorney who was diagnosed a year ago with such
26 severe heart damage from COVID-19 that he became a candidate for a heart
27
28

1 transplant. When Dr. Gumrukcu found out about his condition, he immediately
2 replied that Seraph Medical was working on a stem cell therapy that he believed
3 could reverse the heart damage.
4

5 As predicted, I was treated by Serhat's group and miraculously my heart
6 muscle recovered to pre-Covid condition, and the specter and fear of a
7 heart transplant was removed from my prognosis. During the treatment
8 time, Serhat would reach out to me to see how I was doing.
9

10 Exhibit A.

11
12 Mehrdad Davoudpour came to Dr. Gumrukcu after having exacerbated a prior
13 spinal injury. He reports:

14 At my initial appointment, Dr. Musikanth and Dr. Gumrukcu patiently
15 spent hours providing details to my every question regarding the
16 regenerative stem cell treatment protocol they would be providing. In
17 addition, while many doctors profit heavily off their patients, Dr.
18 Musikanth and Dr. Gumrukcu only charged for the cost of the treatment.
19 Their clinic is brimming with people who are suffering from
20 debilitating pain to terminal illnesses; whom other doctors have deemed
21 as hopeless cases. Individuals, whose lives, and mine, their
22 collaborative work has transformed and saved. Furthermore, I
23 personally know of multiple individuals, who were unable to afford the
24
25
26
27
28

1 cost of their customized treatment, and were provided with the same
2 level of care completely free of charge.

3
4 Exhibit A.

5 Gary “Julian” Goldstein works in HIV healthcare and knew of Dr. Gumukcu
6 as someone who worked closely with highly respected doctors seeing the same
7 patients that Goldstein sees. Mr. Goldstein got to know Dr. Gumrukcu when he
8 began consulting on his mother’s case:

10 My mother who was a professor at UCLA., became ill with cancer in
11 2016. She has been working with some of the top oncologists at UCLA.
12
13 There have been times when those doctors were stumped and did not
14 know how to help my mother. Serhat looked at her lab results and made
15 suggestions which were outside of the normal protocol of the
16 oncologists at UCLA yet at my mother’s request they decided to take
17 Serhat suggestions. In one instance my mother was having severe
18 edema and Serhat strongly suggested that my mother get an albumin
19 infusion. The doctors agreed to try this and it instantly worked. The
20 doctors have told me that since this time they have been using this
21 protocol to treat other cancer patients with edema and they had not done
22 this in the past and they expressed their gratitude to Serhat for his
23 suggestion as other patients have been helped by this suggestion.
24
25
26
27
28

1 Exhibit A.

2 **B** *Serhat Daniel Gumrukcu Should Be Admitted to Bail and Not Detained*
3
4 *Before Trial*

5 A defendant may only be detained pending trial where “no condition or
6 combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the person as
7 required and the safety of any other person and the community.” 18 U.S.C. §
8 3142(e)(1). Accordingly, a detention order is only justified when a defendant
9 presents either a risk of nonappearance or a danger to the community. *United States v.*
10 *Motamedi*, 767 F.2d 1403, 1406 (9th Cir. 1985). A finding that a defendant poses a
11 risk of nonappearance must be supported by a preponderance of the evidence, while
12 a danger finding must be supported by clear and convincing evidence. 18 U.S.C. §
13 3142(f); *United States v. Gebro*, 948 F.2d 1118, 1121 (9th Cir. 1991) (per curiam). In
14 making those findings, courts must consider: (1) the nature and circumstances of the
15 offense charged; (2) the weight of the evidence against the defendant; (3) the history
16 and characteristics of the defendant; and (4) the nature and seriousness of the danger
17 to any person or to the community that would be posed by the defendant’s release.
18 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g); *United States v. Winsor*, 785 F.2d 755, 757 (9th Cir. 1986).

19 Obviously, the nature and circumstances of the charged offense are quite
20 serious. However, neither the defendant nor his counsel have seen a scintilla of
21 evidence to support the charge other than rank conjecture by the case agent. The
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 criminal complaint discusses the evidence against Jerry Banks, the alleged killer, but
2 never so much as mentions Dr. Gumrukcu. As the California Supreme Court has
3 observed, “The [liberty] of even the most hardened criminal should not be staked on
4 such a flimsy foundation.” *People vs. Terry*, 57 Cal.2d 538, 566-567 (1962).

6 If it is the government’s conviction that Dr. Gumrukcu should remain in
7 custody before trial, it should come forward with witnesses and evidence and allow
8 both to be tested. In the instant case, there is nothing other than an unproven and
9 untested allegation in the indictment and no extrinsic evidence to corroborate
10 anything. As stated in *United States v. Huckins*, 53 F.3d 276, 279 (9th Cir. 1995), the
11 Court should either deem the allegation unreliable or demand that the government
12 subject its claims to scrutiny. The failure to do either means that Dr. Gumrukcu
13 could be kept in jail without bail on the basis of a mere accusation that have never
14 been substantiated. As previously noted, the agents’ suspicions of the defendant’s
15 involvement, without any supporting documentation or witness statements only
16 confirms the flimsy nature of the case against this particular defendant.

21 Without further evidence to substantiate the claims that the government has
22 made, the detention determination in this case flies in the face of the constitutional
23 presumption that bail will be granted, U.S. Const. amend. VIII; *Stack v. Boyle*, 342
24 U.S. 1, 4 (1951), and the burden that § 3142 places on the government to show that
25 no combination of conditions will assure the defendant’s appearance. *United States*
26
27
28

1 *v. Townsend*, 897 F.2d 989, 994 (9th Cir. 1990). Because “[d]oubts regarding the
2 propriety of release are to be resolved in favor of defendants,” *id.*, release should be
3 denied “[o]nly in rare circumstances.” *Motamedi*, 767 F.2d at 1405. It certainly
4 should not be denied where, as here, no evidence of the defendant’s culpability has
5 been produced.
6

7
8 Despite the assertion in the Pretrial Services Report that “[i]t has only been in
9 the last month that the alleged killer and other co-defendants have been identified
10 and arrested,” PSR at 5, this is shown to be false by the Criminal Complaint. While
11 it is true that Banks was arrested a month ago, the affidavit in support of the Criminal
12 Complaint makes it clear that authorities had learned a great deal about Banks very
13 quickly years ago after tracing the cell phone and car that he was using.
14

15
16 While Dr. Gumrukcu was aware that the FBI was interested in him many years
17 ago and then earlier this year, he did not feel a need to hire counsel until recently.
18 When he did, his attorney, Roy Black, contacted the F.B.I. and requested all future
19 contact should be through counsel. The agent complied, stating that he had
20 forwarded the “email to the primary case agent responsible for the matter so that it is
21 properly communicated to the investigative team.” Exhibit I. At no time was Dr.
22 Gumrukcu particularly concerned. He certainly had no plans to flee, and has never
23 attempted to do so, even though the FBI has contacted him several times over the last
24 four years.
25
26
27
28

1 When one moves on to consider the history and characteristics of defendant,
2 Dr. Gumrukcu has a much broader and richer tale to tell. As the history of his
3 accomplishments and the letters written on his behalf attest, the qualities for which
4 Dr. Gumrukcu is best known – kindness, compassion, generosity, and selflessness –
5 are entirely incongruent with the charge.
6

7
8 As will be addressed, Dr. Gumrukcu does not pose a risk to anyone or to the
9 community. He also does not represent a flight risk. While the four factors
10 identified in *Winsor* are meant to guide the court’s analysis, the two questions that
11 the court must answer are whether defendant poses either a risk of nonappearance or
12 a danger to the community. If not, he should not be detained before he has been
13 convicted of a crime.
14

15
16 In terms of making this judgment, Dr. Gumrukcu is prepared to controvert the
17 allegations in the Pretrial Services Report that are contended to require Dr.
18 Gumrukcu’s detention.
19

20 **1. Serhat Daniel Gumrukcu Does Not Represent a Flight Risk**

21 Dr. Gumrukcu has known about this case for four years and was first
22 interviewed by the FBI nearly four years ago. In this time, he has had the
23 opportunity to flee, but has not. Instead, he has only increased his ties to the
24 community, having only very recently bought his current home, and begun
25
26
27
28

1 construction on the \$18,450,000 project that Dr. Gumrukcu envisions as a life
2 sciences campus and home to his non-profit, the Seraph Research Institute. Exhibit C.

3
4 Dr. Gumrukcu also has verified resources. He currently has a \$4 million
5 dollar mortgage on a home estimated to be worth \$6.7. Exhibit D. Since his initial
6 appearance, he has been able to more than double the size of the bail he can offer. A
7
8 third party, Paul Dougherty, has offered his home as collateral for Dr. Gumrukcu's
9 bail. Dougherty reports that he has a \$3.1 million mortgage on a home worth \$5.9
10 million, leaving \$2.8 million in equity. Exhibit E.

11
12 More recently, an additional surety has come forward. William F. Wittekind
13 is pledging \$1 million as part of an unsecured bond, his net worth is over \$3 million
14 dollars.

15
16 Dr. Gumrukcu's ties to the community could not be more solid. He is married
17 to a U.S. citizen and owns a home in Los Angeles. In fact, his husband reports that
18 the work that Dr. Gumrukcu has done in the Los Angeles area is the source of their
19 income of approximately \$15 million last year which has largely been re-invested
20 into forwarding the mission of Seraph Research Institute through donations, the
21 purchase of property and funding Seraph Medical PC. It is also in Los Angeles that
22
23 Dr. Gumrukcu has pursued his plan to create a non-profit research institute that
24 facilitates scientists with similar goals. He is currently signing lease agreements and
25 LOIs with tenants in the field of gene therapy and research. Exhibit B.
26
27
28

1 With both financial and family ties to the community, Dr. Gumrukcu is solidly
2 part of the community in which he lives. This is corroborated by how much the
3 people who know Dr. Gumrukcu believe in him. As noted, at least one such
4 example is Paul Dougherty who is willing to pledge over \$2 million to allow Dr.
5 Gumrukcu to remain out of custody. Like many others, Dougherty is aware of the
6 importance of the work that Dr. Gumrukcu is doing and the need for Dr. Gumrukcu
7 to be able to continue his research and humanitarian endeavors.
8

9
10 In every way, Dr. Gumrukcu is the opposite of a flight risk. He has strong ties
11 to the United States and to the Central District of California. He lives here, works
12 here, owns substantial property here and is married here. *Cf.* Townsend, 897 F.2d at
13 996. Moreover, his net worth is largely founded upon his stock position in Enochian
14 Biosciences, a Los Angeles-based, California corporation. If he was to flee this
15 substantial financial investment would most likely evaporate, further reinforcing the
16 defendant's reason for abiding by all bail conditions. He has spent the last year
17 further investing in the Los Angeles area, both with his purchase of a home and
18 purchase of property for the Seraph Research Institute and his life sciences campus.
19

20
21 Notwithstanding the factors in Dr. Gumrukcu's favor, the Pretrial Services
22 Report identifies several issues that it asserts preclude Dr. Gumrukcu from being
23 released on bail. Taken seriatim, none actually represents a risk that Dr. Gumrukcu
24 will not remain in the community and appear for trial.
25
26
27
28

1 **a) Allegation: Dr. Gumrukcu Was Arrested When Boarding a**
2 **Flight to New York**

3
4 The suggestion that Dr. Gumrukcu's trip to New York had anything to do with
5 an intent to flee is shown to be false by the substantial evidence that Dr. Gumrukcu
6 had planned a brief trip. The purpose of the trip was to attend the J.P. Morgan
7 Founder's forum from May 25-26. In this regard, Dr. Gumrukcu had not only
8 booked a ticket to New York, he also purchased a return flight to Los Angeles. His
9 husband had also booked a hotel room over a week earlier for the period from May
10 24 to May 27, 2022. Exhibit F.

11
12 Dr. Gumrukcu booked the return flight for May 27 because his father was
13 having surgery on May 26 and Dr. Gumrukcu wanted to be with him while he
14 recovered. Prior to leaving, Dr. Gumrukcu's parents were staying with him because
15 of the surgery. Dr. Gumrukcu's parents live in Turkey and had not seen him for two
16 years. It was anticipated that Dr. Gumrukcu's father would recuperate for some time
17 in Dr. Gumrukcu's home upon his release from the hospital.

18 **b) Allegation: Dr. Gumrukcu Has Ties to and a Passport from**
19 **a Foreign Country**

20 Dr. Gumrukcu has not traveled abroad in so many years that he allowed his
21 Turkish passport to expire in 2020. Exhibit G. He currently has no way to leave the
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 country. With all that he has established here, Dr. Gumrukcu would be giving up
2 everything in his life were he to flee and abandon everything he has built.

3
4 Dr. Gumrukcu's passport is currently in the custody of Dr. Gumrukcu's
5 attorney who stands ready to provide it to the court to assure Dr. Gumrukcu will
6 make his appearances and not flee.

7
8 In fact, Dr. Gumrukcu has been pursuing United States citizenship since
9 September 23, 2020 when an N-400 application for naturalization was filed. Exhibit
10 H. He has been a lawfully admitted permanent resident since March 2014. Exhibit
11 G. His immigration attorney states that they are awaiting an appointment with the
12 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. Exhibit H.

13
14 **c) Allegation: Dr. Gumrukcu Recently Liquidated \$2 Million**

15
16 While Dr. Gumrukcu did sell approximately \$2 million in Enochian stock, he
17 also recently purchased his home and the \$18.5 million property where he is
18 planning his life sciences campus, both of which are in Los Angeles.

19
20 Notwithstanding the liquidation of these funds, the case agent reports that Dr.
21 Gumrukcu still retains stock worth almost \$100 million, which is restricted because
22 he is an insider. PSR at 6. Trading or selling restricted stock is very difficult and
23 time consuming. In fact, the stock certificates that Dr. Gumrukcu recently sold are
24 still with transfer agents and have yet to be delivered to the purchaser and no funds
25 from the stock sale have been received.
26
27
28

1 The purpose of withdrawing those funds was to liquidate two percent of Dr.
2 Gumrukcu's Enochian stock to repay a debt of \$1 million and to pay for renovations
3 on the buildings that Dr. Gumrukcu had recently acquired for Seraph Research
4 Institute and his life sciences campus. Exhibits B and C. If anything, Dr. Gumrukcu
5 was only investing more heavily in this country and the Los Angeles area. The sale
6 was certainly not intended to fund an attempt to flee the country.
7
8

9 **d) Allegation: Dr. Gumrukcu Is Not Licensed to Practice**
10 **Medicine in this Country**
11

12 Dr. Gumrukcu has never purported to be licensed or practicing medicine in the
13 United States. After receiving medical training at Dokuz Eylul University in Turkey,
14 Exhibit I, Dr. Gumrukcu earned a medical degree (M.D.) at I.M. Sechenov Moscow
15 Medical Academy/First Moscow State Medical University. He later completed two
16 years of residency in genetics at the same institution, receiving the Russian
17 equivalent of a Ph.D.
18
19

20 Dr. Gumrukcu serves as a consultant to treating physicians at Seraph Medical,
21 a practice wholly owned by Phillip Musikanth. The Patient Services Agreement at
22 Seraph Medical clearly states Dr. Gumrukcu is a consultant advising the practice. It
23 explains that Dr. Gumrukcu was foreign trained and is not licensed in the United
24 States. While his insights as a consultant are valued, the Agreement clearly states
25 that Dr. Gumrukcu he is not a decision-maker in the patient's care. When Dr.
26
27
28

1 Gumrukcu has contributed to a patient's care, he has always done so in the service of
2 a properly licensed medical doctor. It is up to the attending physician to approve or
3 reject his recommendations.
4

5 **d) Allegation: Dr. Gumrukcu Owns Assets in a Foreign**
6 **Country**
7

8 According to the Pretrial Services Report, "The case agent has evidence
9 suggesting the defendant has at least 4 foreign bank accounts in Turkey." It is
10 true that Dr. Gumrukcu has Turkish bank accounts. These accounts, however,
11 were opened long ago.
12

13 **2. Serhat Daniel Gumrukcu Is in No Way a Danger to Anyone in the**
14 **Community**
15

16 It is far harder to find that Dr. Gumrukcu represents a danger to the
17 community. He has been aware of the FBI's investigation for four years and has
18 only increased his stake hold in the Central District of California. In that time he has
19 lived as an upright, model citizen, earning the praise and admiration expressed in the
20 many letters written on his behalf.
21

22 As even the Pretrial Service Report acknowledges, Dr. Gumrukcu has a
23 minimal criminal history, consisting of a single conviction from an act occurring
24 eight years ago that was later reduced to a misdemeanor and dismissed. Dr.
25 Gumrukcu received a sentence of five-years' probation.
26
27
28

1 Other than this old conviction and the current charge itself, there is nothing to
2 substantiate a finding that Dr. Gumrukcu presents a danger, particularly in light of
3 the lack of evidence supporting the charge.
4

5 CONCLUSION

6 As Dr. Gumrukcu has established, he has strong ties to the Los Angeles area
7 where he has developed an exemplary reputation. At the same time, he hasn't
8 traveled abroad in seven years and has allowed his only passport to expire. Other
9 than the charge itself and a minor conviction from years ago, there is no basis to find
10 that Dr. Gumrukcu represents a danger to anyone. Accordingly, the Court should
11 find that Dr. Gumrukcu is neither a danger or flight risk and order him released on
12 bond as proposed. Counsel is suggesting bail in the amount of \$6 million to be
13 secured by two homes with a net value of over \$5 million dollars and an additional
14 unsecured bond in the amount of one million dollars, all subject to appropriate
15 verification. Both homes are in the Central District of California. Finally, the
16 defendant is willing to accept home detention with appropriate monitoring either in
17 California or Vermont pending the conclusion of this case.
18
19
20
21

22 Dated: June 1, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

23
24 /s/ Victor Sherman
VICTOR SHERMAN
25 Attorney for Defendant
SERHAT DANIEL GUMRUKCU
26
27
28